

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 OPIC-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /144 W
----- 029917

R 192252Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8550

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 5978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN GOVT SHUTS DOWN EMERALD MINES, WILL OPEN
TENDER FOR PRIVATE OPERATION

1. THE COLOMBIAN GOVT ON JULY 17 CLOSED DOWN ITS EMERALD
MINES NORTH OF BOGOTA INCLUDING MUZO, COSCUEZ AND PENAS BLANCAS,
PROPERTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE STATE
SINCE THE TIMES OF THE SPANISH CONQUEST.

2. FRUSTRATED OVER ITS OWN INABILITY TO CONTROL THE MURDER,
ROBBERY, SMUGGLING, BLACKMARKETING, AND GENERAL ANARCHY IN
THE ZONE, THE GOVT WILL SOON OPEN INTERNATIONAL TENDERS TO
OPERATE THE MINES.

3. MEANWHILE, THE ARMY HAS SIEZED CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE EMERALD
MINING AREA WHILE GOC OFFICIALS OVERSEE LANDFILLING OPERATIONS,
TO PROTECT THE PRODUCT WHICH IS STILL IN THE GROUND, AND THE
STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT. SOME 15,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED
BY THE SHUTDOWN, INCLUDING THOSE WHOSE BENEFITS WERE ILLEGITIMATE.

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4. TENDERS MAY BE ISSUED WITHIN THE NEXT 15 DAYS BY THE MINISTRY OF MINES. ONE COMMON OPINION IS THAT FEW FIRMS WILL BE INTERESTED UNLESS THE ARMY CONTINUES TO GUARANTEE THE ORDER NECESSARY FOR A SUCCESSFUL MINING OPERATION.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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